

Friends,

Romans,

Countrymen,

I feel as St. Peter must have felt on the Mount of the Transfiguration, "It is good for us to be here." St. Peter stood with St. James and St. John in the presence of their transfigured and glorified Lord. So we stand together in the presence of the same Lord, members of His Body, the Church, members of His family, mankind. I am grateful for your presence today. I am grateful to all the parishes which changed the hours of their services of worship and arranged transportation so that you could be here. It is only appropriate to remember that we should not be here at all if it were not for the work of more than we can hope to name:

those who have carried on the apostolic ministry and mission
from the first century to the present time;

those who planted our branch of the universal and catholic
Church in this land and in this State;

those who in the newly-won independence of our nation formed an
independent branch of the Anglican Communion on this side of the
Atlantic and in this State;

those who founded the Diocese of Northern New Jersey, now
the Diocese of Newark, a hundred years ago;

and those who have borne witness to the Church's Lord throughout
these hundred years.

But there are also those who have worked hard to bring today's great

service to pass:

the Centennial Committee under the able leadership of Dr. Malcolm Talbott, of Grace Church, Newark, one of the founding parishes of the Diocese, and Mrs. Carl Kuhl, of St. David's Church, Kinnelon, one of the youngest of our parishes;

the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, whose chairman, the Reverend Harold F. Shaffer, and whose members are responsible for the arrangements of this service; the Diocesan Altar Guild and its Director, Mrs. Marion Moore;

the musicians of the Diocese, particularly Mr. James MacGregor of Grace Church, Newark, Mr. Gustav Bittrich of St. George's, Maplewood, and Mr. Howard Vogel of Calvary Church, Summit, but also the other organists, choir directors, and choristers responsible for the magnificent music of this occasion.

The Centennial Committee asked me to give special mention to Mrs. Arthur Ekins whose secretarial help has been invaluable.

And, of course, we express our deepest gratitude to Seton Hall University and the Archdiocese of Newark for the gracious hospitality afforded us today.

It is a particular and special joy to us that our Presiding Bishop, in the first months of his term of office, made time in his busy schedule to be with us and to bring us his stirring message. We give him the assurance of our prayers and our support. A token of that support will be the offering today, which will be equally divided between the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and the Discretionary Fund of the Bishop of Newark.

We celebrate the centennial of our Founding Convention today, remembering with gratitude the century that is past and dedicating ourselves anew to the work of the years that are ahead. Today's service is but one of a number of events that are planned for this centennial year. In January, we look forward to dialogue with our Roman Catholic brothers on the subject of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Consultation on the Ministry of the Church. In March, the Diocese will be host to the Reverend Robert Hall, Executive Director of the Episcopal Center for Evangelism, who will lead meetings and workshops for the clergy and lay people of the Diocese.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer is planning an event in the Diocese for the early fall of 1975.

But while we celebrate the centennial of our Diocese and offer ourselves anew for the work God may give it in the future, it is well to remember that God does not call His Church to self-aggrandizement but to service, the root-meaning of the word ministry. Our ministry in this Diocese is to the weak and disenfranchised, to young children and to the aging, to the indigent and those who are victims of discrimination, to members of minority races and cultures, and to all men and women who are denied the opportunity for full and free realization of their God-given potential.

One problem of global proportion confronts us as we enter this centennial year - the spectre of hunger. As we meet today, millions in India, in Africa, in Central and South America and elsewhere in the Third World are starving - starving to death. Families and individuals with inadequate incomes are going hungry in the United States.

This problem is especially baffling to Americans because - for once - it is a problem that more money cannot solve, certainly not in the immediate future. In the long range, improved methods of agriculture and aquaculture - the new science of increasing the harvest from the sea - may alleviate the hunger of people. In the immediate future, we must learn to share what we have.

This mean:

- less meat on our tables to provide more grain for the people of the world;
- lowered consumption of petroleum products so as to provide fertilizer for the production of food, in other lands as well as our own;
- lowered use of fertilizers for our lawns and golf courses so as to make more available for the growing of rice, corn, or wheat.

Therefore, at the outset of this Centennial Year, I call upon you and all the people of the Diocese of Newark to set the hunger of God's people at the center of our concern in the weeks and months ahead. Specifically, I ask you to return to the Church's traditional discipline of fasting, to abstain from meats one day a week, to limit the use of petroleum products by conserving heat and power and by refraining from the unnecessary use of our cars. I ask you, also, to contribute the money saved through such abstinence - UNICEF has calculated this to be one dollar for each meatless meal - to the Presiding Bishops Fund for World Relief, to UNICEF, or to another agency concerned with meeting the problem of hunger in our world.

St. John warns us: "If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth."

(I St. John 3: 17-18)